



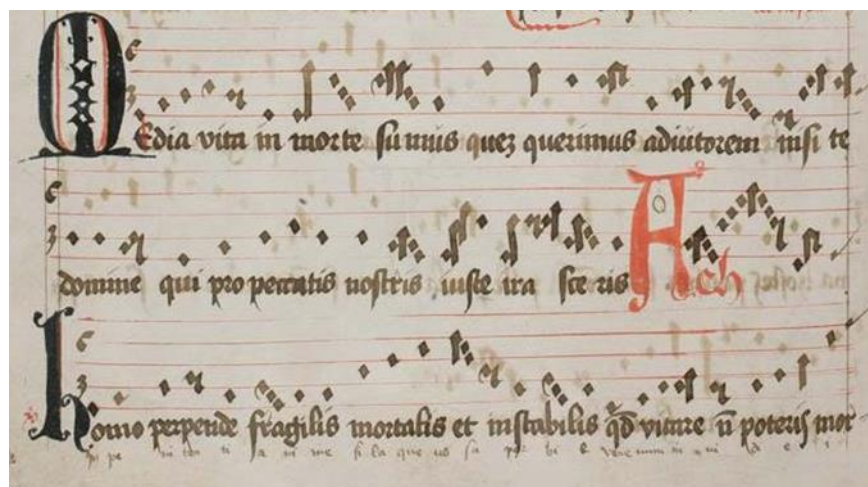
“Media Vita”

by Rev. Thomas Chryst

There's a beautiful Latin hymn that dates to the 14th century, which was set to Gregorian chant. Its name is from the first line, “Media vita in morte sumus (Latin for “In the midst of life we are in death”)

The most accepted source is a New Year's Eve religious service in the 1300s, though others claim it originated in a battle song of the year 912 by Notker the Stammerer, a monk who wrote about Emperor Charlemagne.

Today, Lutheran pastors sometimes include it in the funeral liturgy for a Christian, especially at the graveside committal. Our version of it goes like this:



In the midst of life, we are in death
From whom can we seek help?
From You alone, O Lord,
Who by our sins are justly angered.
Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and merciful Savior,
Deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

Lord, You know the secrets of our hearts;
Shut not Your ears to our prayers, but spare us, O Lord.
Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and merciful Savior,
Deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

O worthy and eternal Judge,
Do not let the pains of death turn us away from You at our last hour
Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and merciful Savior,
Deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

We are surrounded by death and illness, tragedy and calamity. It has been a rough couple of months, especially, for our own congregation. And when the Christian faces death, what is there to do but to cry out to the only one who can truly help? The Holy God, holy and mighty, merciful Savior, Jesus Christ!

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*That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God, and that by believing
you may have life in His name. —John 20:31*

I love how **dark this hymn is in its language of death**. It's bitter. It's painful. We deserve it. We've justly angered God. Eternal death itself looms before us. Nothing is sugar-coated or soft-pedaled about death. It is ugly and painful and an unwelcome invader into God's world. Let's call a thing what it is.

But just as powerful is the appeal to the **only helper**. The only deliverer. The one who knows the secrets of our hearts and does not shut his ears, but hears our prayers. The one who means to spare us. He is mighty. He is merciful. He is the Savior. As terrible as death is, God is yet good. Though we are, even in the midst of life, up to our eyeballs in death – there is one who is with us. And He brings life. He brings life that death itself cannot destroy. Though it may feel we are abandoned to the pains of death, the suffering of grief and loss, and the object of God's righteous anger... faith sees the **smiling countenance of God in Jesus Christ**. In the midst of life, we are in death. But even in the midst of death, we have a life that cannot fail. Our Jesus conquered death. He took away its sting. And his promises to each of us stand, no matter what the enemy says or does. Maybe not today, but you will be with him in paradise. And then also, at the resurrection, even our bodies will rise to life and live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Four Bible Verses for Rejoicing (even when you don't feel like it) *(submitted by) Vera Sweet*

During hard times, it can be difficult to find the energy to rejoice. It feels easier to focus on how bad everything is and to dig in your feet and say, “Nope, nothing to be joyful about here.” I am frequently guilty of this. I often take a look at what is going on in the world and, instead of bringing my worries to God, I bury myself in how bad it is. In biblical times, there were many situations where believers could have lost all hope. But God's promises break through and turn hard times into joy.

Although the Bible doesn't shy away from telling believers how dark the world is, or from using the emotions that come from consequences of sin, it redirects our emotion toward the Solid Rock. When we don't feel like rejoicing, we still can rejoice, because Jesus has overcome everything. Here are four verses to help you rejoice even when things seem bleak.

Philippians 4:23 ~ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Philippians is a book all about joy, which is surprising since it was written by Paul while he was in a prison cell. Yet Paul is so joyful! He knows that his situation is temporary and that the joy found in Christ was eternal. In this verse, which ends the Letter to the Philippians, Paul recognizes that “the grace of the Lord Jesus is what joins His Spirit with ours so that we live fully” (note for Philippians 4:23 in *The Lutheran Study Bible*). When we have Christ's Spirit in us, we can rejoice because He grants us a life in full—even when our current circumstances don't *feel* like it. The grace and forgiveness found in Jesus are with us, and the Holy Spirit helps us to rejoice in knowing that He has given us life.

Psalms 118: 24 ~ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The psalms are the perfect place to turn to when you are feeling any emotion. They guide us to think about our feelings and then point us to the truth. Psalm 118 may have been written for celebration. Luther called it his “own beloved psalm.” Its words lead us to worship and rejoice as they remind us of how faithful the Lord has been. When looking at your day and other days ahead, you can know that every day is in the Lord's plan, even if what is going on in your personal life or in the world don't appear that way. Every day is a day He has made.

Psalms 37:4 ~ Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Let's dig into this verse a little bit. When I first read “delight in the LORD,” it didn't quite make sense to me. What does it mean to delight in the Lord? We know that all good comes from Him and that we find happiness in Christ. The world will fail us, but God's promises never fail. To delight in Him then means that we replace worry and envy with intentional trust. Going further into the verse, we see that the desires this verse is discussing are not trivial. Desires of the “heart” are for what is right and lawful according to Scripture. As you intentionally spend time with the Lord—through His Word, other believers, and other places where He says He'll be—the Holy Spirit will line up your desires with God's desires.

Matthew 11:28 ~ Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

In Jesus' time, many religious leaders preferred to live under the heavy burden of manmade rules and regulations that missed the heart of God's Law. They wanted to find salvation on their own. Jesus flipped that on its head by giving the Gospel that provides rest. When we don't feel like rejoicing, it can be because it seems too strenuous to do so. But Jesus promises that when we come to Him, He will give us rest. He will relieve us of the need to rely on ourselves to find rest and peace. When we rejoice in Him, we can remind ourselves that the pressure is off of us to have it all figured out.

By rejoicing when we don't feel like it, we recognize that God is still good. Christ is where we find true hope, peace, and rest. God is still working, even when we don't feel like He is. Written by **Adele Werner**



STEWARDS UNDER THE CROSS

Newsletter article – August 2020

Winston Churchill reportedly said, “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten and more by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. So it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got us for Himself, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

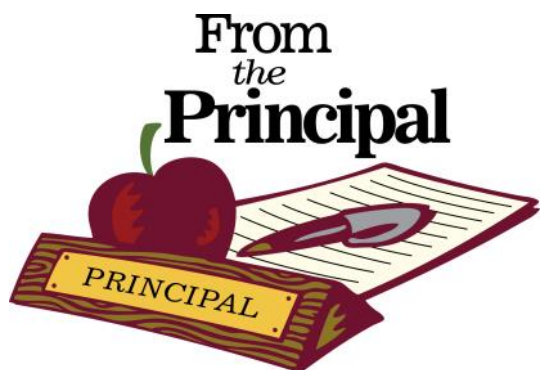
As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. Giving softens our hearts and frees us from the worries of this world and making a living. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get.

That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives – our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others?” to “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But, when we give, we do not have less, and we do not become less. We have more and become more. Because when we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

Just a quick note to say “THANK YOU” to all the faithful stewards in our congregation. Your continued gifts and offerings to the ministry here at MLC are vital, and your faithfulness in stewardship is very much appreciated!

Board of Stewardship



From
the
Principal

Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy will begin their 2020-2021 school year in person on **Wednesday, August 19.**

There will be a Parent Orientation on **Thursday, August 13** and two “Tell the Teacher More” events on **Friday August 14** and **Monday August 17.**

Please keep the students and teachers in your prayers as they begin a new school year.

A HUGE Thank You to Kris Carter and Grover Downing for repainting the giant chess set. The original paint came off and the set had to be power washed and re-painted.

Look for pictures of the new Ninja Warrior Course that Grover has been working on for months in next month’s newsletter!



**MLCA 2020-2021
School Verse**

**We have this hope as an
anchor for the soul, firm
and secure**

~ Hebrews 6:19

Treasurer report: Last year's church and Sunday school offerings were over \$801,000. Designated gifts reserved into savings were \$152,000. Released from savings \$135,000, which includes most of the organ fund monies. Overall the church had \$943,685 available to spend on expenses of \$969,688 leaving a shortfall of \$26,000. The major over budget spending items were repairs, and salaries and benefits. The Boards are trying to mitigate expenses to cover the loss. Messiah's school income covered its expenses with a surplus of \$7,161. Though enrollment was lower, the Board adapted to the income. The combined numbers for the church and school was a loss of \$18,841. The voters allocated \$50,000 from the Heidorn bequest to our investments. This must be accounted for as income, yielding a book surplus of \$31,158. The voters approved a budget for FY 2020/21 which forecasts a loss but we will be working on trying to keep the expenses to a minimum. We have not borrowed from our line of credit.

Pastor's report: Attendance at around 160 Sundays (down from 260 avg). Now offering regular Saturday All-Masks/Communion Only svc. About 30-40. Unable to visit most homebound members. Deaconess Buhler helping us keep in touch. Continue to pray for Jacob Brewer. He's shown some great improvement this week. Bringing him to Fort Worth (Cook Childrens?) soon. Generous support from community. New Church Office Administrator: Interviews have concluded and an offer made. Waiting for HR to provide onboarding package and candidate to accept before we announce. Thanks to Steve L. and Allison S. for helping in the process.

Elders report: The Elders are working to expand our worship capability while meeting the diverse needs of our members. We are working to implement more in-person Sunday School attendance. Investigating installation of microphones for the alter area. Developing additional guidelines to address request for assistance with medical costs with the benevolence fund.

Stewardship report: Monitoring investment funds. Encourage everyone to give online with a bank debit to save credit card processing costs. Investigating another financial planning series of events.

Evangelism report: Continued appointment only visits for Swaddling Clothes, total of 17 families were served for the month of July. Working on policies and procedures for Seminary students and Missionary staff support.

Trustees report: The Board is working to manage expenses and prepare for MLCA opening. Selecting a contract service for janitorial services.

School Board report: Enrollment is 56 and we will open school on Aug 19. Every LCMS School in Texas is opening on time. The Board has prepared and adopted a COVID 19 operating plan and it is being implemented. We are advertising and seeing inquiries and tours. North Texas Giving Day is Sept. 17th. We earnestly ask everyone to help us spread the word about MLCA

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CLASSICAL ACADEMY

NOW ENROLLING FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

- FIVE-DAY TRADITIONAL K THROUGH 8TH GRADE
- THREE AND TWO-DAY COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM K THROUGH 8TH GRADE
- PRESCHOOL 2'S THROUGH PRE-K

1308 WHITLEY ROAD
KELLER, TX 7628



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2020 Graduates

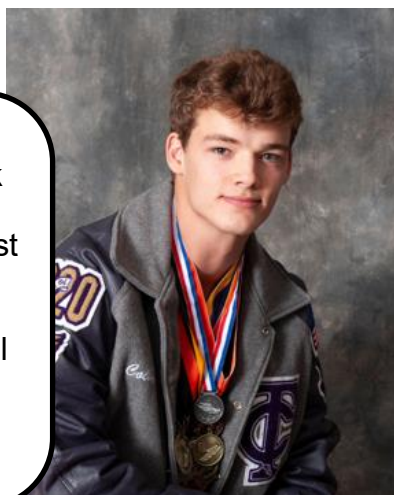
by Pamela Buhler—Deaconess



Olivia Bolton, member of the National Honor Society, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Richland High School. She plans to attend UTA this fall to pursue an education in Business. Congratulations Olivia!



Joseph Buhler graduated from Alpha Academy Homeschool. He will be attending Concordia University Wisconsin this fall to pursue a degree in Computer Science with a focus on animation. Congratulations Joseph!



Colby Carter, Track and Field participant, graduated from Timbercreek High School. Specializing in High Jump, his personal best was 6'4" and his fastest 400 meter was 53 seconds! Colby is currently working as an electrician apprentice and will continue to work until December. He will then either begin college classes or pursue service in the military. Congratulations Colby!



Kat Cashon graduated from Timber Creek High School. She will be attending Tarrant County College this fall to complete core courses with plans to transfer to Texas Wesleyan to pursue a degree in Music with a focus in Vocal Performance. Congratulations Kat!



Bailey Chryst graduated from Central High School. This fall she will be attending Austin College to pursue a degree in Education. She is excited to continue swimming and better herself through higher education. Congratulations Bailey!



Bailey Heitmann graduated from Birdville High School and will be attending TCC in the fall. Bailey attended Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy from 3 years of age until 5th grade. Congratulations Bailey!



Levi Harris graduated from Ft Worth Christian School. He enjoyed playing soccer all four years of high school! Unfortunately, his senior year was cut short with an arm injury during a game, but his passion for soccer continued. Levi plans on attending TCC in the fall to pursue their paramedic program with the hopes of a career with the Fire Department as a firefighter. Congratulations Levi!



Emily Walker graduated from Tarrant County College with her Associate of Arts degree with an emphasis in Psychology. She will be pursuing her Bachelor's degree, this fall, at Texas Woman's University as she studies Psychology, Sociology, and Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies. Congratulations Emily!



Congratulations!

We will keep these young people in our prayers for a prosperous future with whatever path God has chosen for them.

2020 Confirmands

Congratulations to our 2020 Confirmands.



Messiah Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Academy Office: (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Thomas Chryst, Pastor

www.messiahkeller.org

Morgan Chryst
Dorian Crutchfield
Matthew Palmer
Davis Richmond
Mia Salgado
Charlie Umayam
Audrey Weber
Emily Weber



Please keep these young people in your prayers as they begin a new chapter in their life of faith as a confirmed member of the Lutheran church.

